

California Recreational Trails Committee

Public Meeting Minutes

March 2, 2007

9:00 A.M.

City of Clovis - Public Safety Building

Emergency Operations Center

1233 Fifth Street

Clovis, CA 93612

I. Call to Order (9:02 A.M.)

Chair – Maryanne Vancio

II. Introduction to Committee Members and Staff

Members Present:

Maryanne Vancio (Chair), John Mercurio (Vice Chair), Gregory Gandrud, Jeannie Gillen, Laura Zabkar.

Staff Present:

Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director, California State Parks

Steve Musillami, Executive Secretary for the CRTC, Statewide Trails Manager

Barry Trute, Park & Recreation Specialist, Statewide Planning Unit

III. Minutes approval from August 2006 Meeting

Maryanne Vancio reported that several typographical errors needed to be corrected. Minutes from the August 2006 meeting were moved for approval by Greg Gandrud, seconded by Jeannie Gillen and approved unanimously.

Maryanne Vancio thanked Dave Koehler from the San Joaquin River Parkway and Conservation Trust for his tour and presentation on March 1, 2007.

IV. Reports

a. State Park Director's Report (Paul Romero, Chief Deputy Director)

- **Deferred Maintenance Funding**

\$250 million was allocated for the Department. \$160 million will be returned to the State General Fund. \$90 million will be used for deferred maintenance. Jeannie Gillen asked why none of the \$250 million was earmarked for trails. Chief Deputy Director Romero responded that the priority of the Department is to repair water and sewage facilities.

- **Proposition 84 (Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control, River and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2006)**

Chief Deputy Director Romero continued by explaining Proposition 84 and its eight-year plan for implementation. State Parks trails would allocate \$5 million over eight years for trail improvement and enhancements.

Maryanne Vancio asked if the funds could be used for other than State Parks projects such as for other trails within the state. Chief Deputy

Director Romero noted that it would be difficult to answer without more information. Chief Deputy Director Romero suggested that project applications should be submitted regardless.

- Chief Deputy Director Romero reported:
 - Two CRTC seats (one in Southern California and one at large) need to be filled. Numerous applications have been received so far.
 - Several park impacts (toll roads, power lines, etc) would affect trails. He also noted a proposed casino development project that has the potential of impacting State Parks and therefore trails.
 - Rio de Los Angeles SP will officially open on April 24th at 4:00 P.M. This new unit will be an urban park operated by the City of Los Angeles.
- Maryanne Vancio asked if State Parks had filed a lawsuit against the power company seeking to place power lines through Anza-Borrego Desert SP? Chief Deputy Director Romero responded that the State Park Commission had indeed filed a lawsuit.

b. Statewide Trails Manager's Report (Steve Musillami)

- California Coastal Trail Grant Projects funded in FY 05/06 include:
 - Glass Beach Area – McKerricher SB
 - Ewoldsen/Tanbark Connector Trail – Julia Pfeiffer Burns SP
 - Soberanes Point South Segment – Garrapata SP
 - Elephant Seal Boardwalk – San Simeon SP
- California Coastal Trail Signage program
 - New Coastal Trail Emblem by the Coastal Conservancy
 - Pilot signage projects include:
 - Patrick's Point SP
 - McKerricher SP
 - Sonoma Coast SB
 - Monterey SB
 - San Simeon SP
 - El Capitan SP
 - Huntington SB
- Trails Conference Update – registration will open the second week in March. The conference will include:
 - Workshops
 - Concurrent Sessions – Trail Information Portal Session
 - Plenary Sessions (Trail Accessibility & American River Parkway)
 - Keynote Speaker (Paul McHugh)
 - Entertainment (Walk'n Jim Stolz)
 - Raft Trip
 - Bike Tour (Charlie Willard), Horse Ride (Jeannie Gillen), Mountain Bike Ride (Cathy Hagen-Smit)
 - Trail Mixer – California Trails and Greenways Foundation (CTGF)
 - Sponsors to date include:
 - International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA)
 - California State Parks Foundation

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 - California Trails and Greenways Foundation (CTFG)
- Recreational Trails Program (RTP) Workshops – free, grant preparation information, how to construct a good trail. A member of the general public, Toby Herst, asked if the information was available online. Steve Musillami responded that it would be and could be accessed from the Trails website. The RTP Workshops are scheduled to be held:
 - April 9th, Oakland
 - April 10th, Fresno
 - April 13th, Redding
 - April 24th, San Diego
 - April 25th, Yucaipa
 - April 26th, Malibu
 - May 9th, Folsom
- John Mercurio asked what the \$1 million grant award for the California Coastal Trail Grant Projects funded in FY 05/06 is to be used for. Steve Musillami answered that the funding will be used for planning, environmental documents, permits, construction and oversight.
- Maryanne Vancio noted that the public should take advantage of the information offered at the upcoming RTP Workshops.

c. Chair Report (Maryanne Vancio)

- Maryanne Vancio reported that:
 - San Diego County had conducted their 2nd Trail Symposium during which the delegates had discussed regional trail plans and how to connect the regional trail system. The event included approximately 75 attendees.
 - she had attended the National Trail Symposium
 - she had attended and was a speaker at the State of the Horse event to discuss trails. She also mentioned that Steve Musillami attended and spoke on trail issues at the event.
 - the Southern California Trails Coalition is working to develop a standardized trail maintenance process.
 - the San Diego County Department of Parks & Recreation is continuing to acquire open spaces with the hope that trails will be a major component.
- Gregory Gandrud asked if an indemnification ordinance in San Diego County had been approved. Maryanne Vancio reported that it had. Chief Deputy Director Romero noted that Santa Clara County has one. Property owners are covered for liability from accidents that occur on trail easements that travel through their land.

d. Member Reports

John Mercurio

- John Mercurio reported that the Concord Naval Weapons Station is now surplus and has acreage to be used for recreation purposes including open space which could include trails. A 21-member community advisory committee has been formed on which John Mercurio holds a seat.

Jeannie Gillen

- Mentioned the passing of trail advocate Tony Look.
- In September, Jeannie Gillen was involved in a team-penning event in Twin Oaks, which raised \$34,000 for an elementary school.
- Jeannie Gillen reported that she received a letter from the Governor thanking her for her support of SB1556 (Delta Trail).
- Bear Valley Springs (pop. 10,000) community outside of Tehachapi gave a trails presentation – specifically addressing liability – and recommended the best available practices in the planning, construction and maintenance of trails.
- The “Day of the Horse” was recognized on December 9th with a local parade – Bill # ACR33 “calls upon all citizens to be mindful of the welfare of the horse and to recognize and appreciate the role of the horse in our history, heritage and economy.”
- The California Trails and Greenways Foundation (CTGF) has offered to take the lead on California Trail Days organization. Brochures, patches and registration – May 19-20, 2007. Californiatrailandays@sierratel.org for information on California Trail Days.
- American Horse Council (Washington, D.C.) – AHC commented on USFS trail classification system. “Concerned that USFS, through changes in the National Trail Classification System, is implicitly trying to eliminate access for riders and pack stock.”
- Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Open Space Working Group supports and augments existing open space and habitat conservation programs in Southern California. Meeting 3/9/07 will address three types of open space – natural open space and wildlife linkages (aka trails), community open space and farmlands.
- Cuyamaca Rancho SP horse camp relocation concerns. Jeannie Gillen discussed project with Tony Perez in Sacramento who was very open and willing/ interested in her thoughts and opinions concerning the horse camp. Her specific concerns about horse camping include the close proximity of being near the network of existing trails. Chief Deputy Director Romero responded that the horse camps at Cuyamaca Rancho SP will not be just relocated but part of a complete rebuild of a park that burned three years ago. The cost is expected to be approximately \$25 million. To accomplish this rebuild, Cuyamaca Rancho SP will need a General Plan Amendment. The recommended new sites have minimum trail opportunities likely due to surrounding terrain and topographic limitations. She thought maybe an en-route overnight camp or facility could be an option.

- Mentioned the passing of George Cardinet. Father of the Anza Trail. Passed at the age of 97. Over 60 years of advocacy.

Gregory Gandrud

- Franklin Trail report – hopeful for funding – will give people of semi-urban areas access to the National Forest.
- There have still been issues between equestrians and mountain bikers. There has been discussion about the possibility of odd/even day usage that was not well received. Jeannie Gillen suggested that maybe the next Central Coast meeting should be in the Santa Barbara/Carpenteria area to have the opportunity to address these issues.

Laura Zabkar

- Laura Zabkar noted how the area in which she lives; Auburn, is frequented by many trail user groups. Auburn is also home of:
 - The Endurance Challenge – 100 miles in a year of horseback riding, mountain biking, and running.
 - Western States Run and Ride – 100 miles course. The event has set up a foundation that works to continue this event. There is also a volunteer committee continually working on maintenance of the trail.
- Jeannie Gillen asked if there was any new information on the status of the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) No Hands Bridge over the American River. Because of safety concerns, the bridge had been enclosed in a cage so no one could use it. Laura reported that handrails had been installed and that it was open again for foot, horse and bike traffic.
- In 2003 Auburn became the endurance capital of the world.

e. Subcommittee Reports

- **Awards Subcommittee** – The sub-committee did not receive any nominations even though it had been advertised. Jeannie Gillen suggested that maybe the CRTC award nominations should be made part of the application process. John Mercurio suggested that the award information could be included in the conference material. Chief Deputy Director Romero suggested that the committee could make their own nominations. John Mercurio suggested that the fall meeting should have an agenda item concerning award nominations.
- **User Conflict Subcommittee** – a video is available. The Committee would make the video available on request for presentations.

V. New Business

a. California Trail Days – May 19 – 20, 2007. Jeannie Gillen provided an overview on this upcoming event.

b. Tony Look Resolution – the Committee was provided with a draft of the resolution after which it would be forwarded to the Park and Recreation Commission. Steve Musillami read the resolution aloud for the benefit of all in attendance. Chief Deputy Director Romero noted that the next meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission (the naming authority) on May 3rd would

address this resolution. Gregory Gandrud made a motion to approve the resolution. Jeannie Gillen seconded the motion. Motion passed to adopt the resolution (unanimously).

c. Staff Report

- California Recreational Trail System Plan (Phase II) - Steve Musillami provided a staff report on an overview of the CRTC and the Trail Plan (Phase II). Jeannie Gillen felt that the report gave the Committee guidance for the future. Maryanne Vancio suggested that the report be introduced during the meeting and that a more in-depth discussion would take place during the information portal session. Chief Deputy Director Romero spoke on the funding and planning process of the Phase II project. John Mercurio suggested maybe developing partnerships or sponsorships. Jeannie Gillen wanted to see links between what is occurring and what is written in the California Recreation Trails Plan. Chief Deputy Director Romero suggested placing an agenda item on the California Recreation Trails Plan for the Fall meeting. Chief Deputy Director Romero noted that the whole process would likely take 24 months.
- California Trails & Greenways Conference Involvement – in agreement.
- Develop California Trail Marketing Program – the focus of this section is to market trails and not the Committee. Gregory Gandrud suggested signage and modern technology to inform the public. Jeannie Gillen suggested collaborating with trail users to gather information. Maryanne Vancio commented on the magnitude on developing statewide trail mapping and that maybe it should be started at the local level. Jeannie Gillen asked Gregory Gandrud to start a forum to look at how the trail database could be created using trail user based information.
- Review and comment on new trail related products and trends – Steve Musillami outlined how new possible trail related products (Segway, GPSr, etc) could be showcased to the Committee for feedback. John Mercurio was concerned about conflict of interest. Chief Deputy Director Romero suggested encouraging participation in conferences.
- Trail User surveys – Steve Musillami noted that he receives frequent inquiries on trail user surveys. Who is using the survey; not conditions of the trail. Standardized survey instrument to gather information on local trails that communities could use.
- Gregory Gandrud made a motion to approve the staff report and action recommendations. Jeannie Gillen suggested adding to the motion that the report should not need to modify the CRTC by-laws. John Mercurio seconded. Passed unanimously.

d. 2007 Meeting Calendar

Gregory Gandrud wanted to see the February 2008 meeting hosted by Carpenteria. Lake Tahoe, the desert (Palm Springs, Borrego Springs, etc) and San Bernardino were suggested. The Committee decided on Lake Tahoe in August '07, San Bernardino/Riverside in November '07 and Carpenteria in February '08.

e. Presentation

Big Sandy Bridge project by Mark Holland of the Central California Off-Road Cyclists (CCORC)

VI. Old Business

- Sunset of Long Distance Subcommittee –Jeannie Gillen made a motion to sunset the subcommittee. John Mercurio seconded. The motion was passed.
- User Conflict Subcommittee - Jeannie Gillen offered to chair the subcommittee and suggested that Gregory Gandrud assist her on the subcommittee. Gregory Gandrud agreed to serve on the subcommittee.
- Awards Subcommittee– Maryanne Vancio will chair the subcommittee with John Mercurio and Laura Zabkar assisting.

VII. Public Comment

Toby Horst – concerned with conflicts between horses and bikes (his term). Injuries and liability issues are becoming a concern with horseman. Insurance for backcountry horseman is on the rise. Mr. Horst mentioned that he has been trying unsuccessfully to lobby California to pass legislation for a state liability release. Chief Deputy Director Romero gave a brief explanation on tort liability and how it affects trails. Jeannie Gillen will provide Steve Musillami with some indemnification examples.

VIII. Next Meeting

Maryanne Vancio noted that the next meeting of the CRTC will be May 11th at the California Trail and Greenways Conference in Folsom.

IX. Adjournment

Gregory Gandrud moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded by John Mercurio. The motion was passed. Meeting was adjourned at 12:39 P.M.